

Abstract of the Disclosure

Expanded porphyrin comprising substitutions for at least two NH groups by S, Se or Te are non-photoactive and are selective for binding G-quadruplexes characteristic of the *c-MYC* control region. Accordingly, these expanded porphyrins are useful to modulate the expression of genes controlled by the formation of *c-MYC* type G-quadruplexes, such as *c-MYC* itself.